

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant

Issue 9 – December 6, 2011

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22 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, December 6 there will be exactly 22 weeks until the May Primary! The Secretary of State's Office has distributed our calendars for the 2012 election. It has dozens of deadlines, requirements, and procedures listed. If you need more calendars, please feel free to contact us and we will get them to you as soon as possible.

Messaging Now Available In SVRS

A messaging module is now available in the SVRS navigation menu. While most users will find that it behaves much like an email account (including the ability to handle attachments), it is not intended to nor will it replace the SOS email provided to each county. It should, however, serve well as an additional communication tool among the SVRS environment user group. It is anticipated to be a good device for statewide notifications, for notifications between users (cancellations, duplicates, etc.), and for possible use case messaging threads among users. You are encouraged to explore this feature and provide feedback whenever possible at svrs@wvsos.com. Please use this feature exclusively for SVRS related matters, as those users that consistently work in SVRS are the intended beneficiaries of the feature. As always, if you have any additional questions, feel free to get in touch.

Summers County ADA Grant Presentation

Summers County received \$8,225.00 from the Help America Vote Act VOTE funds for updating polling places to allow easier access for voters with disabilities. These funds are specifically designated to establish, expand and improve access to and participation in the election process by individuals with disabilities. Summers County is improving three polling places by creating more easily accessible routes from the

parking area to the entrance to the polling place. Additionally, Precinct 32 is installing an entry door threshold ramp and replacing the door knob with a lever that is usable with one hand. These funds are called the HAVA VOTE funds and are available as part of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. They are administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services as the Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities grant program. This \$8,225.00 in HAVA VOTE funds will be used to pay 100% of the costs for these Summers County projects. If you would like more information on HAVA grants, please contact HAVA Coordinator Layna Brown in the Secretary of State's Office at lbrown@wvsos.com.

Outreach Division Expands

The Secretary of State's Office is excited to announce the expansion of the Outreach Division! Vicky Marra is a graduate of West Virginia University with a Masters of Public Administration. Vicky will be working out of Morgantown. If you have an event you would like the Outreach Division to know about, please email outreach@wvsos.com.

US House Votes To End EAC

On Thursday, December 1 the United States House of Representatives voted 235-190 (with 8 nonvoting) to pass HR3463, a bill that eliminates taxpayer financing of Presidential elections and also eliminates the US Election Assistance Commission. The bill sends most of the duties that are now performed by the EAC to the Federal Election Commission. The bill must now go to the US Senate for a vote. The West Virginia Secretary of State's Office is monitoring this bill closely and will keep county clerks updated on its status.

Find the Secretary of State's Office on Facebook and Twitter

If you have a Facebook account (about 800 million people in the world do!) or a Twitter account (about 200 million people do!) you can follow the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office. This is one of the best ways to stay updated with what is going on at the State Capitol. You can see pictures and videos, and you may also find out something that wasn't issued as a press release or included in the Election Connection. **And as a hint:** Press releases are first published through Facebook and Twitter. So if you want to know the "news" even before reporters find out, "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter. Just go to www.facebook.com and search for "Office of West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant" and go to www.twitter.com and search for "Natalie E. Tennant."

Have an idea?

Is there something that you want to see addressed in the Election Connection? The goal of this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date about challenges facing election officials in West Virginia and to inform everyone about best practices that are

being put into place. If you have an idea for a topic, have a question, or if you think there is a subject that election officials around the state would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact the Elections Division by email at elections@wvsos.com or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at jglance@wvsos.com. Your input is appreciated.